

NOTES OF MEETING

OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF WORK COOPERATIVES AND INTERESTED PERSONS

held at

BRUNSWICK WORK COOPERATIVE, 173 ALBION STREET, BRUNSWICK ON MONDAY,  
22ND JUNE, 1981

1. PRESENT

Bootstrap Trading Cooperative	Terry White Judy Munster
Westwork Collective	Jamie Inglis
WORCO	Max Llewelyn
Development Adviser	Brian Greer
Maryborough Producers & Recycling Coop.	Rob Alliston
Hard Times Collective	Krys Horton
V.O.C. & H.T.C.	Josie Simsa
Ballarat Employment Coop. & Cooperative Federation	Tony Gill
Ballarat Employment Cooperative	Chez Dichiera
Loch Ard Cooperative, Warrnambool	Rod Duncan
Brunswick Work Cooperative	Des Webster
Ministry of Employment & Training	David Griffiths
Cooperative Federation of Victoria	Bill Rawlinson

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Do-It Cooperative  
Box Hill Cooperative

2. CHAIRPERSON

Judy Munster was nominated, and accepted, the position of Chairperson. Terry White undertook to record the minutes.

3. REPORT OF LAST MEETING

Report of the meeting held on 6th March 1981 has been circulated and the meeting agreed and accepted this as a correct record of those proceedings.

4. WELCOME

A welcome was extended to those attending for the first time and a particular welcome was given to Jamie from Footscray and Brian Greer.

5. BALLARAT CONFERENCE

Bill Rawlinson read a report on the Ballarat Cooperative Conference. Further correspondence included:

Letter from Minister acknowledging letter of thanks.  
Letter from Michael Roux acknowledging letter of thanks.

The meeting was also informed that funding has arrived to cover conference costs.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

The items on the Agenda were then given priority and dealt with in numerical order.

7. CO-OPERATIVE ADVISER

Bill Rawlinson welcomed Brian Greer as newly appointed Cooperative Adviser. Brian has an academic and employment background in Accounting. He has had practical experience working for two years in a Cooperative in New Zealand.

Brian responded to the welcome.

8. COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA - ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Tony Gill, Work Cooperative representative on the Victorian Cooperative Federation Council, indicated that nominations for the 1981/2 Council close on Friday, 17th July. He suggested that two Work Cooperative representatives on the Council would be helpful. It was suggested that Work Cooperatives could nominate Tony Gill and Max Llewelyn as Council delegates. Max and Tony would be prepared to stand.

9. ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The role of the Steering Committee was discussed and each person present suggested functions.

JUDY suggested Cooperative education as an important function achieved through the Newsletter and regular workshops.

Liaison with and support for Brian.

MAX Production and control of Cooperative Newsletter and encouragement and support of prospective Co-operators.

ROD To delegate essential tasks, set up a sub-committee to produce a newsletter to work at the relationship with Brian.

ROB Support for Brian.

DAVID

To ensure continuance and development of the Work Cooperative Programme.

To establish common goals for the Work Cooperatives in Victoria.

To engage in Cooperative decision making in areas of common interest.

To ensure that Brian works in the interests of the Work Cooperatives.

JOSIE

Relationship with Brian.

DES

Important function as a lobby and pressure group - Government, Opposition, Union movement.

Organise workshops.

Ensure Cooperative ideals separate from economic ideals are realised.

Set funding priorities to help representatives on funding committee.

Foster co-operation between Cooperatives - even amalgamation where appropriate.

Support and direction for Adviser.

Advice and support for would-be Cooperatives.

CHEZ

Work at relationship between Cooperative Federation and Work Cooperatives.

Meet every 3 months for a one day meeting of use to would-be co-operators - venue changing with each meeting programme arranged by hosts.

TONY

Liaison with other non-Government agencies, e.g. T.A.F.E., Trades Hall, Unions.

To examine deficiencies in draft Cooperative legislation.

Create a resource centre for Cooperative literature and resources.

BILL  
RAWLINSON

Clarify relationships between Work Cooperatives - Brian - Cooperative Federation.

Examine legislation.

Group meetings of relevance to embryo Cooperatives separate from Steering Committee.

10. CANBERRA CONFERENCE

The Work Cooperatives submission for State Government subsidy for Conference attendance was too late to be considered by Funding Committee.

David Griffith suggested that the Steering Committee could perhaps use some of the \$3,000 allocated for Cooperative education and training.

Bill Rawlinson indicated that \$900 of this money would be needed to cover advertising costs for Adviser position.

Josie Simsa and Tony Gill have investigated alternate arrangements for Victorian participation. The R.M.I.T. bus (11 seats or 14 seats with endorsed licence driver Bruce Bumford of Box Hill) is available for the trip.

Tony Gill will check with interested participants to co-ordinate the trip.

11. E.P.U.Y. CONFERENCE

Josie Simsa was asked to suggest a Work Cooperative person to run a workshop on Work Cooperatives and alternate work - expenses paid. Rob and Des volunteered to assist.

12. OPEN CHANNEL COOPERATIVE

Open Channel Cooperative is preparing material for a Channel 'O' showing as there is interest in putting together a 28 minute videotape on Cooperatives. Bill, Tony and Rob expressed interest in following this further.

13. FRANK WILKES' DELEGATION

Bill Rawlinson will attempt to convene a meeting with Frank Wilkes and the Shadow Minister for Employment for Monday, 13th July. The delegation will consist of Rob, Bill, Des, Terry, Chez and Rod and will brief Mr. Wilkes on the Work Cooperative movement.

14. HARD TIMES

Work Cooperatives undertook to supply the newspaper "Hard Times" with one page per month on Work Cooperatives. Neville Stern has been doing this on our behalf. Terry is to forward an article and photographs on Bootstrap by 17th July to Chris Houghton.

A liaison person is needed to ensure continuity of contributions.

15. BRIAN GREER STARTING DATE

Work Cooperatives indicated that 1st July would be a more preferable starting date for Brian than 14th July - Tony to speak to Bill on this matter.

16. MONEY FOR ADVISER POSITION ADVERTISING

Rob and Des recalled that Michael Roux had given a verbal agreement to cover the advertising costs. Des will check this with Michael Roux to avoid \$3,000. Cooperative Education Fund being used for this purpose.

17. COOPERATIVE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

Des will write to the Minister to find out how much money was allocated from the \$105,000 prior to the end of the financial year and if any funds were returned to Treasury.

18. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Work Cooperatives Group of the Victorian Cooperative Federation Steering Committee will be held on 20th July at 10 a.m. The venue will be 45 Moreland Street, Footscray.

- Task:
- (1) To plan the Agenda of General Meeting open to all on Monday, 17th August, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Ballarat.
  - (2) To discuss paper on 'The Role of the Steering Committee' prepared by Judy Munster and Terry White. Prior to presentation to 17th August meeting.